

**Before the
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, DC 20554**

In the Matter of)	
)	
Amendment of Parts 2, 25, and 87 of the)	
Commission's Rules to Implement Decisions from)	
World Radiocommunication Conferences)	ET Docket No. 02-305
Concerning Frequency Bands Between 29 MHz)	
and 36 GHz and to Otherwise Update the Rules in)	
this Frequency Range)	
)	
Amendment of parts 2 and 25 of the)	
Commission's Rules to Allocate Spectrum For)	RM-10331
Government and Non-Government Use in the)	
Radionavigation-Satellite Service)	

COMMENTS OF PANAMSAT

PanAmSat Corporation ("PanAmSat"), by its attorneys, hereby files these comments in support of two proposals set forth by the Commission in its Notice of Proposed Rulemaking¹ in the above captioned proceeding. The proposals addressed by PanAmSat are these: (1) to eliminate the unused allocation of spectrum for, and make associated rule changes with respect to, the International Fixed Public Radio Services ("IFPRS"); and (2) to permit the use of the 14-14.5 GHz band by the Maritime Mobile-Satellite Service ("MMSS"). In each case, as set forth below, PanAmSat also supports minor amplification and/or clarification of the Commission's proposals, consistent with the basis and thrust of each item.

PanAmSat owns and operates a global satellite system. The two proposals addressed in these comments concern frequencies used by PanAmSat's satellite system.

¹ 67 Fed. Reg. 75967 (Dec. 10, 2002).

I. Antiquated Footnotes and Regulations Regarding IFPRS Use Should be Eliminated.

PanAmSat supports the Commission's proposal to delete from its table of allocations and from its regulations outdated provisions that permitted the operation of IFPRS stations in the 2100-2200 and 10.7-11.7 GHz bands.² PanAmSat further suggests that, consistent with the Commission's proposal, the Commission also limit the continued application of its regulations covering IFPRS facilities in the C-band to the few systems which the Commission notes remain in operation in a few Caribbean islands, grandfathering these systems, but permitting no other.

As set forth by the Commission in its Notice, there are no IFPRS systems currently operating in the 2100-2200 and 10.7-11.7 GHz bands and there is no reason to believe that these bands will ever again be required for such systems, which have long been replaced by undersea cables and satellite links for international calling. Similarly, while there are apparently a couple of vestige systems operating in the C-band that remain in the Caribbean islands, there is no prospect of which PanAmSat is aware for any new systems of this kind to be implemented.

Accordingly, as a practical matter, given the antiquated nature of the IFPRS service, the elimination of rules allowing for new IFPRS systems should have no effect vis-à-vis the IFPRS service itself. At the same time, however, it is useful to eliminate as much as possible references to such antiquated systems in the Commission's rules, because even the theoretical existence of such systems can complicate the planning and coordination of satellite services that actually use these bands.

II. Secondary MMSS Use of the 14-14.5 GHz Band Should Be Permitted.

PanAmSat also supports the Commission's proposal to modify its table of allocations so as to permit secondary use of the 14-14.5 GHz band for maritime mobile-

² The latter of these bands, which comprises a portion of the Ku-band, also is allocated, among other things, to the fixed satellite service.

satellite services. PanAmSat agrees with the Commission that MMSS service can, under appropriate technical rules, be provided on these frequencies in a manner that is compatible with other uses of the band. Further, as many FSS satellites already have extensive ocean coverage, allowing such operations will facilitate the fuller and more effective use of FSS spectrum.

The Commission's Notice does not address the service rules that would govern MMSS operations in the 14-14.5 GHz band. PanAmSat urges the Commission, however, in making the proposed allocation to make clear that such operations are contemplated solely as an adjunct to FSS services. That is, it would be impractical and a waste of valuable FSS spectrum to license these frequencies for a stand-alone MMSS satellite service, given that the primary use of these frequencies necessarily must remain for FSS facilities. On the other hand, it is practical and efficient for FSS satellites to provide MMSS services to augment their current service offerings.

III. Conclusion

For the reasons stated herein, PanAmSat supports: (1) the elimination, to the maximum extent practical, of the Commission's rules and regulations that authorize IFPRS use; and (2) permitting the secondary use of the 14-14.5 GHz Band by FSS licensees to provide MMSS services. In each case, the changes proposed would bring the Commission's rules closer in line with current technical capabilities for the most efficient use of these bands and, therefore, would serve the public interest.

Respectfully submitted,

PANAMSAT CORPORATION

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